



# Idaho Medical Association

## 2019 LEGISLATURE: IMA STATUS REPORT *Week of January 7 – 11, 2019*

Idaho voters elected Brad Little as Governor in the November 2018 election. Governor Little gave his first State of the State address on Monday, January 7, on the first day of the 2019 Idaho legislative session. You can read the entire address, as well as the complete list of the FY 2020 governor's budget highlights, by clicking [HERE](#).

These are the topics presented by Governor Little that are primary of interest to IMA members:



- **Graduate Medical Education:** The Governor made it clear that his focus during his term will be on education. He has repeatedly emphasized his desire to create an environment where Idaho children not only receive an excellent education in Idaho, but they also want to live here to establish their adult lives.

Regarding graduate medical education, the Governor recommended additional funding of \$1,657,500 for year two of implementation of the State Board of Education's 10-Year Strategic Plan for GME Expansion, which will create 19 new slots for residents and fellows. It also increases the per-resident funding amount that the state provides to our existing GME programs, which is critical to their sustainability.

- **Proposition 2 (Medicaid Expansion):** The Governor will support the will of Idaho's voters in implementation of Medicaid expansion. His budget proposal implements expansion with a net-zero impact on the state's General Fund due to savings that will be realized as a result of expansion and using \$10.8 million from the Millennium Fund (tobacco settlement trust). His budget does not include funding for the potentially costly restrictions such as work requirements on expansion implementation that are being discussed by some legislators who oppose Medicaid expansion.

IMA opposes unnecessary and costly barriers to coverage in Idaho. Experience in other states shows that restrictions are very expensive for the state and do not prove to be effective at doing anything other than endangering the very coverage Idahoans voted to provide.

- **Other Healthcare Issues:** Governor Little also proposed funding on a number of other healthcare programs or proposals, including: combatting opioid abuse, suicide prevention, establishing a statewide family caregiver program, modernization of the child welfare information system, and building a new state veterans' home in Post Falls.

## STATUS OF LEGISLATION AND ISSUES

### **Requiring Meningitis Vaccination for High School Seniors ~ *SUPPORT***

The Idaho Department of Health & Welfare has submitted an administrative rule that adds a new school entry immunization requirement. It requires a second dose of meningococcal (MenACWY) vaccination before a student enters the 12th grade in Idaho, or a first dose if the student was not previously vaccinated, starting with school year 2020-2021. If a student received their first dose of the vaccine at 16 years of age or older, they will not be required to receive the second dose before entry into the 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

***Status:** This rule was heard in the House Health & Welfare Committee on Thursday morning and, after lengthy debate, was approved on a 7-6 vote. The rule now goes to the Senate Health & Welfare Committee for a vote.*

### **WEEKLY REPORTS ON LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY**

As always, the IMA will provide weekly electronic legislative reports during the session. If you have questions or concerns on any of the issues discussed in our reports, please contact us. We are always happy to provide context, additional information, or background on how IMA legislative policies are developed.

If we don't have your current email address you could miss out on important legislative news. If you would like to receive the reports, please send your current email address to [membership@idmed.org](mailto:membership@idmed.org) or call us at (208) 344-7888. For more frequent legislative updates, follow the IMA on Facebook!

### **SUPPORT IMPAC, THE IMA's POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE!**

The IMA Political Action Committee (IMPAC) Board uses your contributions to support a variety of bi-partisan candidates based on the best interests of Idaho physicians and their patients. Even though there was just an election in late 2018, please consider donating to IMA's political action committee (IMPAC). Campaign contributions are made during election years (every two years in Idaho) and it is important that the PAC coffers get refilled in the non-election years.

**IMPAC needs your contributions now to support the house of medicine in Idaho!**

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